

KPS CONSULTING

“Building an Access Bridge in Technology and Telecommunications”

3508 Albemarle Street, NW

Washington, DC 20008

202.641.3849

kpsconsulting@starpower.net

July 1, 2005

Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ex Parte Presentation
WC Docket No. 04-36
WC Docket 05-196
CG Docket 03-123

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On June 30, 2005, Gregg Vanderheiden and the undersigned of the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Telecommunications Access met with Monica Desai, Jay Keithley, Tom Chandler, and Leon Jackler of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau to discuss the need for the FCC to take steps that will safeguard access by people with disabilities to Internet Protocol (IP)-enabled services. The following points were made:

- The FCC should require an interoperable, reliable standard for the real time transmission of text over IP. At present, multiple industry standards, many of which are not compatible with each other, prevent people who are deaf or hard of hearing from being able to make real time calls via text. The ability to communicate via real time text over IP will also be extremely useful in 911 emergency situations, especially because analog-based TTYs are gradually being discarded by the deaf community. A single, reliable text standard that is supported by all systems, prohibits communication systems from blocking text channels (sometimes voice can pass through, but text is blocked), and allows the display of text on end user equipment is needed.

- Video relay providers should not be permitted to lock users into using one video relay service provider. Individuals that use video over IP for point-to-point calls or relay services need to be able to access others to the same extent that hearing people can. In an emergency situation, blocking calls to other relay providers or other individuals becomes extremely dangerous.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Peltz Strauss".

Karen Peltz Strauss
Legal Consultant, RERC-TA